

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 MCT-01 SY-05

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 IO-13 /069 W

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P R 010829Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9694

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, RP

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO GOP REGARDING AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, EMOBFFS AND FAA MANILA REP DISCUSSED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY PROCEDURES WITH COL. DOROTES L. CORONEL, CHIEF OF STAFF OF PHILIPPINE AVIATION SECURITY COMMAND. THIS COMMAND, WHOSE SOLE FUNCTION IS AIRPORT SECURITY, WAS CREATED IN AFTERMATH OF BLOODY PAL HIJACKING ATTEMPT IN MAY AND IN ANTICIPATION OF SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH COULD ARISE FROM IMF WORLD BANK MEETING IN OCTOBER.

2. GOP IS VERY SENSITIVE TO HIJACKING PROBLEM WHICH IS EXACERBATED IN PHILIPPINES BY EXISTENCE OF MUSLIM SEPA-

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RATISTS IN MINDANAO. CHIEF OF STAFF CORONEL IS FAMIL-

IAR WITH ICAO SECURITY STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN ANNEX 17 TO CHICAGO CONVENTION, AND DURING RECENT VISIT OF AIRPORT SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE FROM ICAO REGIONAL OFFICE IN BANGKOK, ICAO REP AND CORONEL MADE POINT BY POINT COMPARISON OF MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MIA) SECURITY PROCEDURES AND ANNEX 17 RECOMMENDATIONS. ACCORDING TO CORONEL, ICAO REP WAS SATISFIED THAT MIA PROCEDURES MET ANNEX 17 STANDARDS. BOTH MIA AND MACTAN AIRPORT IN CEBU HAVE MET STANDARDS OF FAR 107.

3. UNTIL VERY RECENTLY TRANSIT PASSENGERS AT MIA USED LOUNGE FACILITIES SEPARATE FROM THOSE OF EMBARKING PASSENGERS. AT PRESENT, TRANSIT LOUNGE FACILITIES ARE UNDER RENOVATION FOR IMF/WORLD BANK MEETING AND TRANSIT PASSENGERS ARE IN ROPED-OFF AREA OF MAIN DEPARTURE LOUNGE. SEPARATION OF TRANSIT AND EMBARKING PASSENGERS IS NOT RIGIDLY MAINTAINED, BUT ALL PASSENGERS, TRANSIT AND EMBARKING, MUST PASS THROUGH HAND LUGGAGE AND BODY SEARCH BEFORE BOARDING.

4. EMBASSY ASSESSMENT IS THAT AIRPORT SECURITY AT MIA IS GOOD AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE AVIATION SECURITY COMMAND, WILL PROBABLY IMPROVE. EQUIPMENT APPEARS SATISFACTORY AND WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITIONAL X-RAY MACHINES NOW ON ORDER. SEARCH PROCEDURE AND ALERTNESS OF SECURITY PERSONNEL SEEM ADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH NOT AS AGGRESSIVELY THOROUGH AS THEY COULD BE. CHIEF OF STAFF CORONEL UNDERSTANDS THIS PROBLEM AND HAS INSTITUTED A TRAINING PROGRAM BASED ON CURRICULUM OF FAA AIRPORT SECURITY COURSE AT OKLAHOMA CITY.

5. THE AVIATION SECURITY COMMAND (AVSECOM) HAS REQUESTED, AND FAA MANILA HAS PROVIDED, INFORMATION ON AIRPORT SECURITY TRAINING MATERIALS. IN ADDITION, TWO MEMBERS OF PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY ARE PRESENTLY TAKING FAA AIRPORT SECURITY COURSE IN OKLAHOMA CITY, AND AVSECOM IS CONSIDERING FAA PROPOSAL TO SEND TEAM OF EXPERTS TO CONDUCT AIRPORT SECURITY COURSE WHICH COULD REACH AIRPORT SECURITY EXPERTS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES.

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6. THE GOP HAS RATIFIED BOTH 1970 HAGUE AND 1971 MONTREAL CONVENTIONS.
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